

LETTERKENNY EMPLOYEES CELEBRATE SHINGO PRIZE

Congressman Bill Shuster and US Army Aviation and Missile Command Commander, Major General James Pillsbury were on hand to salute employees of the Tactical Vehicle - HMMWV (High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle) line for winning the 2006 Shingo Prize, Public Service. Letterkenny is the only Army Depot to win this coveted prize two years in a row. The 2005 prize was awarded for work on PATRIOT ground support equipment.

In a ceremony in Letterkenny's Building 350 on November 28, Dr. Ross Robson, the Executive Director, Shingo Prize for Excellence in Manufacturing, made the award to Congressman Shuster. He subsequently turned it over to Colonel Robert Swenson, Depot Commander, on behalf of the employees. Nearly 250 employees are affiliated with the HMMWV production program.

Business Week has equated the Shingo Prize with the "Nobel Prize of manufacturing..."

A roll-out ceremony concluded the ceremony where 27 HMMWV's, each sporting an American flag, were stationed in a row throughout the building. At the conclusion, they rolled past the crowd and out the door ready for transport to the field. The efficiencies resulting by implementation of Lean Manufacturing concepts have allowed Letterkenny to produce an additional 27 HMMWV's free each month for use by Warfighters. The ceremony recognized Number 81, the number that totals three months free production.



Major General James Pillsbury, Congressman Shuster, Dr. Robson and COL Swenson display the Shingo Prize.



Twenty-Seven HMMWV's, including Number 81, representing 27 free HMMWV's per month for the past three months.

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Commander's Corner

COL ROBERT A. SWENSON

As the year draws to a close I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for making 2006 an extremely successful year. We increased our workload in generators, forklifts, cranes, HMMWVs and GMVs. We produced Anti Improvised Explosive Devices, armor, and gunner protection kits to help save soldiers lives. We began several successful partnerships, with Lockheed-Martin, Raytheon, Boeing, and AAI which have already brought work to the Depot and hold great promise for growing workload in future. Our Lean efforts have saved our customers millions of dollars, has furthered our reputation for providing a quality product below cost and ahead of schedule. It also resulted to our winning of the Shingo Prize, making us the only Army Depot to win that prize twice.

Next year is already shaping up to be an even better year. We have been given more forklifts, more cranes, more generators, and more HMMWVs than in 2006. We will execute over 3 million direct labor hours, something that has not happened here in a very long time. We will increase the number of Lean events we are doing each month and we have already decided that we will again compete for the Shingo Prize with both the HMMWV line and the Generator Line. Things are going very well for Letterkenny, you all deserve the credit and should be very proud of your accomplishments.

You should also be proud that you've lent a helping hand to those who need a lift with your outstanding participation in the toy and food and back to school drives and your willingness to help others through the Combined Federal Campaign.

At any given time, Letterkenny has about a dozen civilians deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I hope you'll keep people like Dobby Gaiski in your thoughts this holiday season and all of our service members serving away from home these holidays to keep the us and our allies safe.



During this holiday season take time to relax and enjoy yourself, but also reflect on all that you have been blessed with individually and all we have been blessed with as Americans. The entire Swenson family hopes you enjoy the Holiday and may God bless you and yours throughout the New Year. May it be a safe and joyous season and may we all pray for peace on earth and good will towards all.

Happy Holidays

Commander: COL. Robert A. Swenson
Public Affairs Specialist: Alan Loessy; Kim Russell
Photos: Don Bitner

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Phone: (717) 267-5102.

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Congressman Shuster congratulated the workforce during his remarks and cited the Shingo Prize as representative of the winning workforce in Franklin County. "To win this award, back to back, says something about the future of Letterkenny. It says a lot about the hard work you do helping to save the lives of our military service members serving around the world".

Shuster continued: "Your work here is saving lives. Serving on the House Armed Services Committee, I have traveled to the theater of operations on four occasions. Our troops have said, in theater or in country that they know the name Letterkenny. And they know the great work that you do on these Humvees and when they go into battle, they have a vehicle that is not only going to save their lives but is a great fortress as they wage war against our enemies.

Major General Pillsbury saluted the workforce and talked about the HMMWV. "Now, they're going to go over there and they're going to get dirty. And they're going to get sandy. And, they're going to get shot at in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq and possibly places that we're not even thinking about in the future. Because your Army stands between you and fear. Your Army is on point with boots on the ground to keep you and your family free from fear".

Colonel Swenson reviewed the progress that has been made since last December and said: "You all should be proud of what you've accomplished. Winning this award twice in a row is a significant event. It's an event I'm proud of and you should be proud of too".

SCOTLAND SCHOOL HAUNTED HOUSE

By Norlynn John

Many Letterkenny personnel enjoyed working on the 3rd annual Scotland School for Veterans Children (SSVC) Haunted House. The event is normally held in the old gymnasium on the Saturday evening before

Halloween. The 2006 Haunted house had to be postponed to a later date due to a power failure at the school but most volunteers returned to make sure the kids would not be disappointed.

It takes many days to prepare and set up the haunted house. Props are purchased or made in advance and black plastic walls must be hung to create a maze for the students to walk through. Each area is completed with effects and lighting. On the day of the haunted house volunteers each have roles to play as scary characters, running special effects, and as guides. Last, but not least, is the clean up crew that returns the last day to tear everything down and store it for next year.

It is hard to tell who has more fun - the volunteers or the kids. A good scare was had by all!



CSM ELDER RETURNS TO VISIT LETTERKENNY

Command Sergeant Major Daniel K. Elder, from U. S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) returned to Letterkenny on December 7th. He served as Letterkenny's Sergeant Major during the late 1990's.

He began his tour of the depot by speaking to a group of new employees and describing the mission of AMC.



Later, he and current Sergeant Major Curtis Green traveled to Lowe's of Chambersburg where they saluted the Lowe's team for their dedicated support to the area's military. CSM Elder presented a plaque to Lowe's Chambersburg Operations Manager Jason Martinage.



He returned to the depot where he toured through buildings 350 and 370 before seeing

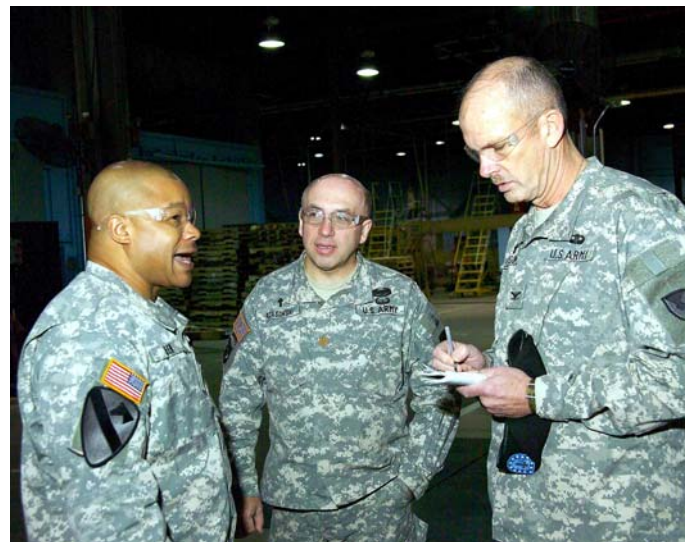
generator repair at the Power Generation Branch in Building 37.

Before returning to AMC, CSM Elder visited the Letterkenny Munitions Center (LEMC) during the afternoon. He's shown here with LEMC's Director Ed Averill.



AMC AND AMCOM CHAPLAINS VISIT LETTERKENNY

Letterkenny Sergeant Major Curtis Green gave a tour of Letterkenny to Chaplains visiting from U.S. Army Material Command and U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command. He is shown here with AMCOM's Father George and AMC's Chaplain Sampson.



SERVING OUR COUNTRY

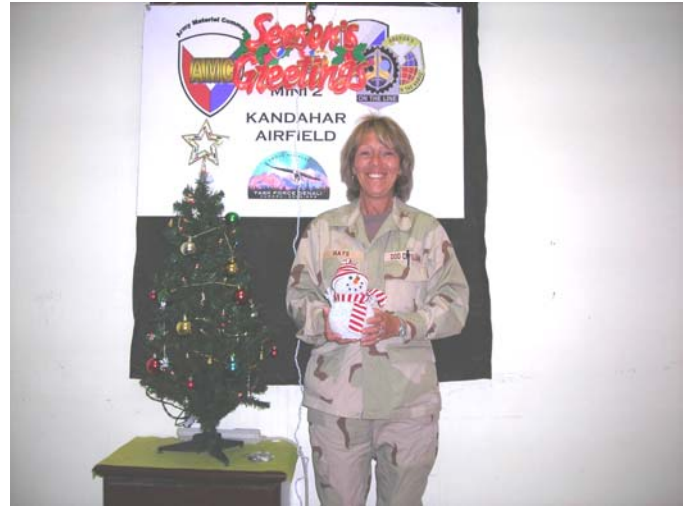


Dobby Gaiski is deployed to Balad, Iraq for 6 months working Warlock administration. Dobby works in the Directorate of Maintenance. This is his 2nd trip to Iraq.



Garry Schuchman is deployed to Balad, Iraq for 6 months working Retrograde Property Accountability. Garry works in the Directorate of Public Works. This is also Garry's 2nd trip to Iraq.

Peggy Hayes is deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan for 6 months working Retrograde Property Accountability. Peggy works in the Directorate of Product Assurance.



CHAMBERSBURG CHORISTERS RETURN FOR HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE

The Choristers, a group of distinguished student performers from Chambersburg Area Senior High School, performed once again at Letterkenny during a lunch-time holiday musical in the Great Room of Building 10 on December 6th.

The outstanding group of young people, under the direction of Mr. Robert Eyer have performed for years at Letterkenny, at the invitation of the Letterkenny Ladies Club. This photo was taken at St. Paul's United Methodist Church by Judy Trego several days after they performed at Letterkenny.



LETTERKENNY MOTOR POOL MOVES TO NEW FACILITY

By Rodney Gettig, Dir. of Public Works

From the old.....



to the new.....



On Friday November 24th, 2006, when people picked their government vehicles up at the motor pool on the building 350 access road, they were told to return the vehicles to a new area off Georgia Avenue. Thus began the migration of the Motor Pool from the highly congested area in front of Building 350 to the wide open spaces along Georgia Avenue. The new Motor Pool facility, which has been in throes of construction the last few months, has now been completed and much-needed parking relief has been afforded to the bldg 350 area.

Ever since Letterkenny Army Depot's workload dynamics were changed to provide the increased tempo of support demanded by our military missions worldwide, there has been a parking/space issue in that area. When

the DPW crews began moving the Motor Pool to the new area on November 24th, immediate parking relief was felt by the employees who work in bldg 350 and the surrounding buildings. As an added bonus the employees who needed to take vehicles out of the Motor Pool are now provided ample parking for their POV's at the new facility. Also enhanced by the move is the additional safety factor of increased visibility when leaving the Motor Pool and the ample room within the new Motor Pool for parking of Government vehicles and equipment.

Gone now is the old trailer that housed the Dispatch Office, where the wooden steps creaked with hundreds of footfalls on a daily basis. A new ground-level Dispatch Office Facility greeted the dispatchers on Monday when they arrived for work. Also gone is the mad rush to find adequate parking in the area for POV's. Plans are being formulated to patch the pavement in the old Motor Pool area, re-line for parking and to re-configure the fencing that surrounded the old Motor Pool area.

4TH QUARTER '06 IAP AWARDS

Colonel Robert Swenson presented the FY 06, 4th Quarter IAP Awards in a ceremony at Headquarters Building 10 on November 16.

Pictured are SGM Curtis Green, Joe Johnson, Berry Robinson, Greg Mellott, Tim Goshorn, Ken Shives, James Fulton and COL Swenson. Absent from the photo were Tim Hurley and Ray Harbaugh.



SMOKESTACK DISAPPEARS

The smokestack that is being demolished supported the Building 349 Boiler Plant, serving to exhaust combustion gasses resulting from boiler operations. The plant and 200-foot-high radial brick stack were originally constructed in 1956, and the coal-fired boilers generated steam for Buildings 350, 351 and 370.

The boilers were converted to burn heavy oil in 1972; and then to burn lighter, low-sulfur oil in the 1980's. These boilers were replaced and made dual-fuel capable (to accommodate either gas or low-sulfur oil) in the 1990's. The new style of boiler changed the plant's combustion air needs, and the need for the high stack no longer existed.

In addition, the stack and breeching that carried exhaust gasses from the boilers to the stack had deteriorated due to use and weather. Extensive repairs were required if the stack were to remain in use.

A boiler plant upgrade was initiated in 2004 and provided the opportunity to install individual steel stacks on each boiler to improve their efficiency and eliminate one stack. As a result, the decision was made to remove the stack at an estimated cost of about \$50,000 and avoid the high cost of expensive repairs, estimated at \$120,000.



The removal of the stack began in November and is expected to be completed by the end of December.

Is Your Teen “Robotripping”?

*The following information was taken from www.parenthelpcenter.com.
by Shae, September 2006.*

“Robotripping” is the nickname for a new trend that is causing emergency rooms across the United States an increased number of visits from teens. “Robotripping” involves the abuse of Robitussin R cough syrup or any cold and flu pills that contain dextromethorphan, also known as DXM. By overdosing on these over-the-counter (OTC) cold and cough suppressants, teens are able to simulate hallucinations similar to the feelings experienced while using PCP (an extremely dangerous hallucinogen). Robitussin R, Coricidin HBP, Vicks NyQuil and Vicks Formula 44 are the most common cold drugs abused because they are legal, easy to get, and inexpensive.

The use of prescription drugs without a doctor's approval can be very dangerous, and in some cases deadly. However, teens have an erroneous belief that taking a pill or OTC medication is safer than doing drugs from off the streets. Because of this belief, trends like “robotripping” are becoming more and more popular each year.

If you think your teen is “robotripping” watch for these symptoms:

- * sweating
- * dry mouth
- * hallucinations
- * nausea
- * vomiting
- * high blood pressure
- * numbness in toes and fingers
- * red face
- * loss of consciousness
- * high body temperature
- * blurred vision
- * delusions
- * stomach pains
- * irregular heart beat
- * headache

If you think your teen is abusing OTC drugs, or any other substances get him or her help today. Don't let your teen experiment with drugs, the consequence could be death.

For addition information contact the Army Substance Abuse office at 245-4576.

TIGER CHORALE

Holiday music was provided by the Fannett-Metal High School Tiger Chorale. They performed in the HUB during the lunch hours on December 14.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS

DISA Logistics in conjunction with the Franklin County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) once again showed their overwhelming generosity in the second annual "Senior Christmas". Senior Christmas is similar to the Christmas trees for children where you pick a name and buy that person a gift. Peg Carll from AAA provides the names of elderly senior citizens who live in Personal Care Homes, Nursing Homes or even their own residences but are low income.

This year 41 senior names on individual cards with gift suggestions, sizes and sex of recipient were received. Each card had suggestions from AAA case workers of what the seniors could use. Items such as clothing or gift cards to grocery stores or pharmacies and even some cookies and diabetic candy were requested. The names were available by Black Friday for Logistics employees to choose so they could get a head start on their Holiday shopping.



(left to right) Gary Carll and Bobbie Kuhns (DISA Business Estimate Branch), Chris Shields (DISA Logistics), Jim Boynton (Chief, Logistics Division) Traci Kline (Director, Area Agency on Aging) and Peg Carll (Area Agency on Aging).

Fall 2006 Toy and Food

Drive...generosity and volunteers made it happen!

By Dawn Hamsher

This year's "Make A Difference Day" Drive was held on 1-2 NOV 06 at five collection locations. It was another success, thanks to YOU! It brought in:

- Food - 2 car loads full (Maranatha and Chambersburg Food Pantries)
- Toys - 2 van loads full (Chambersburg Toy Mission)
- Nursing Home Supplies -- 8 bags (Falling Springs Nursing Home)
- Cell phones -- 50 + 2 bags of toiletries (WIN Victim Services)
- Eye glasses -- 1 bag (Lions International)
- Cash -- \$1183.67 (will purchase still needed supplies)

In addition, LEAD will deliver turkeys and hams to needing families in our community for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you know of such a family, please contact Lonie Bender x9487.

We had over 30 volunteers helping with this drive, to include LEAD, Ammo, tenants and Boy Scout Troup 138. They collected, checked barrels, sorted and delivered. A warm thanks to all of YOU. You make my job easy!

Thanks to everyone for donating and volunteering...I'll see you this summer! *(Note: Summer drive this year will collect food, school supplies & pet supplies for the animal shelter.)* POCs for drives: Dawn Hamsher x9239 or Jim Jenkins x8817

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is experiencing a shortage of mashed potato mix, canned vegetables and stuffing mix, plus Cranberry sauce and desert mixes and cereals and juices. These can be dropped at the Corps Center, 159 Lincoln Way West, Chambersburg.

SO MUCH HISTORY!

By Wilma Martin,
Dir of Maintenance, Analysis Office

Upon coming to Letterkenny Army Depot, Colonel Swenson made it know to the Letterkenny Former Landowners and Residents Organization that he was a history buff and was interested in what took place here on the original farm lands prior to the government taking over the ground.

On a beautiful summer morning on August 24th, Richard Lehman (my dad) took Colonel Swenson and myself on a private tour of the land and eight cemeteries located on the installation. It always amazes me that at 82 years of age and so many, many years in the past that he can remember just where to go, what road to turn onto, and what stood there back in the day. Driving down the road he'd say something like "Keefer's General Store was right here, people would go there and in the evening just sit on a bench and swap stories and talk OR see this road right here, that was Rt. 316. It ran right straight through here from the Maryland line in Waynesboro to Strassburg."



Two of the first cemeteries we visited were the Pleasant Hill Mennonite Church Cemetery and the Pleasant Hill Brethren In Christ Church Cemetery located side by side just west of the Honeytown Road and north of Georgia Avenue. Both are surrounded by chain link fence. Here there is a marker reading "In Memory of Pleasant Hill Brethren In Christ

Church and those interred in the cemeteries; Church Built 1888; land acquired by US Government 1942; this memorial erected 1981 by the trustees – John S. Peckman, Merle B. Lehman, Avery W. Zook". Richard's great grandmother, Barbara Lehman, and his father's brother, Walter Lehman, who died at the age of four months and six days, are also buried here.

There are several smaller family cemeteries, i.e. Schlichter Family (also called Devil's Half Acre) and the Boyer Farm Family. The smallest one is the Besore Family plot, surrounded by a chain link fence overlooking Shirley Lake which contains only three stones.

The Zion Lutheran & German Reformed Church Cemetery is one of the larger cemeteries located here. It is also known as the "Keefer Church Cemetery or Karper's Cemetery". Inside the fence at this plot is a bronze plaque that reads "In Memory of Zion German Lutheran and German Reform Church, First church built 1827, second church built 1868, Land acquired by the US Gov't 1942".

All of the cemeteries were neatly mowed with no weeds growing up around the stones or fences. A few of the tombstones are large and fancy, but most are medium size or very plain and small. Some stones are inscribed in the German language. There are many unmarked graves through the areas and some marked with small square ground type markers containing one or more initials/letters. Others are barely readable anymore.

A lot of our honorable veterans from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War are buried throughout these plots. These gravesites are appropriately marked with a marker and flag.

I also noticed there are a lot of the stones which contained names of infants and very young children buried throughout these areas. Some families had several young children buried. I asked dad and he said he thought that it was because there were a lot of complications back in those days. There were not a lot of doctors and facilities like we have available now. He said there was a lot of lock

jaw in those days also, but it was said that big Sam Bricker was able to “unlock” their jaws.

NOTE: Bus trips to cemetery locations are available each Armed Forces Day.

There are two cemeteries located outside the installation, Snider Cemetery and Emanuel United Brethren Church Cemetery. The installation does not maintain these plots.

Snider Cemetery has over the past years sustained a lot of damage done by vandals and partying on the grounds.

The Emanuel United Brethren Church Cemetery is located in Letterkenny Township, however, it is located on privately owned farmland and has grown up in grass/weeds.

The installation does a good job of maintaining the cemeteries here by mowing the grass and keeping the fences in good repair. Groundhogs/varmints bore under the stones which weakens them, mowers throw stones or get too close and damage the stones, and sometimes simply the age of the stone makes it crumble. On Make A Difference Day each year, a team of volunteers go to these cemeteries and make much needed repairs to these precious markers, scrubs some of them, or fills in under the tombstone with ground or stone. Some stones have already been braced and repaired. You too can help, just sign up when the announcement is made!!!

All of this is part of our ancestral history and it makes me proud to see this work being done. Richard said that folks back then thought after the government took over the ground these cemeteries would go by the way side. The families and friends of the folks buried throughout these plots are extremely grateful that was not the case and are forever thankful for the continued maintenance.

In my forty years here on the installation I have seen a lot of history and learned a lot about the past history, but I am extremely proud of my roots to the past. My mother worked on the depot during the time the Italian prisoners built the existing chapel, aunts and uncles worked here in the first years of the depot's existence and my dad hauled materials

in to build the boundary fences. It sometimes sends chills through my body when I visit some of the spots where my older ancestors lived and worked. It definitely makes me proud to visit these areas with my father and have him personally tell and show me some of the spots where his school was located, where they lived (a part of the smoke house wall is still there), and even about the delicious ham sandwiches they ate on the last day of school.

More history..... About five years ago I interviewed Wayne Elliott who was a former school teacher at Fairmount School. He told me about his experience when his father found out that they were going to have to leave their farm. His father, Walter Elliott, boarded a train and went to Washington to see what he could do to keep “the government” from taking their farm. It was late when he got back that night and he went into the barn. Wayne went out to see what he was doing. He was sitting out there crying because he was told that there was nothing they could do to prevent losing the farm. He said they both sat out there and cried together. In fact, Wayne told me that his father was supposed to go to Reading to pick up a check for the last payment from the government and was too bull headed to go! The large Walter Elliott farm, 102.32 acres, was located in the approximate location of where the old Patriot Field Office was previously located along the boundary fence on the eastern side of the depot and extended almost (if not a little further) back to Overcash Avenue.

Wayne passed away January 19, 2001. Mr. Price Heckman, also a teacher at the Fairmount School, passed away October 13, 2001. These two gentlemen were the last known original teachers at Letterkenny and shared quite a few stories over the years.

At the 51st Letterkenny Reunion of the Original Landowners and Residents, it was decided that there were only two living “original” landowners, Paul Rife and Ruth (Wenger) Brown. Mr Rife has since passed on.

The Letterkenny Reunion of Former Landowners and Residents meet annually in September at the HUB.